

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: TEXT OF SECRETARY'S TOAST AT LUNCHEON IN HONOR
OF PRINCE ABDALLAH

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S TOAST AT THE
LUNCHEON GIVEN IN HONOR OF PRINCE ABDALLAH AT THE DEPT
ON JULY 8, 1976.

2. BEGIN TEXT: YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT
PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO WELCOME FRIENDS FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO THE
UNITED STATES. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS POINTED OUT TO ME THAT
I HAVE VISITED SAUDI ARABIA THIRTEEN TIMES IN THE LAST
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THREE YEARS; I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT ON MY FIRST VISIT, I

DETECTED A CERTAIN SUSPICIOUSNESS ON THE PART OF MY HOST, BUT I'M GLAD TO SAY THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED A RELATIONSHIP NOW OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP.

OF COURSE, I ALWAYS FEEL A LITTLE APOLOGETIC WHEN I WELCOME PEOPLE FROM SAUDI ARABIA HERE, BECAUSE I RECOGNIZE THAT AS FAR AS HOSPITALITY IS CONCERNED, THE UNITED STATES IS AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY. (LAUGHTER)

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS IS VISITING THE UNITED STATES AT A VERY IMPORTANT PERIOD IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ARAB COUN-

TRIES AND THE UNITED STATES, AND IN THE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ARE ALL CONSCIOUS OF THE TRAGEDY THAT IS TAKING PLACE IN LEBANON, AND WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE NECESSITY OF MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE TWO EVENTS ARE CLOSELY RELATED BECAUSE, IN ALL CANDOR, PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CANNOT PROGRESS WITHOUT UNITY AMONG THE ARAB NATIONS. CONTRARY TO WHAT OUR CRITICS ARE SAYING, THE UNITED STATES FAVORS UNITY AMONG THE ARAB NATIONS. WE THINK THAT THE KINGDOM, AND HIS MAJESTY IN PARTICULAR, HAS TAKEN WISE INITIATIVES IN BRINGING TOGETHER THE PRIME MINISTERS OF SYRIA AND EGYPT, AND IN USING THE GOOD OFFICES OF SAUDI ARABIA TO ARRANGE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ALL OF THE PARTIES IN LEBANON. WHATEVER ASSISTANCE THE UNITED STATES CAN GIVE THESE EFFORTS, WE WILL BE EAGER TO DO. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME IN LEBANON FOR ALL OF THE PARTIES TO RECOGNIZE THAT A CONTINUATION OF THE CONFLICT ONLY LEADS TO A NEEDLESS LOSS OF LIFE, AND ONLY ENCOURAGES OUTSIDE FORCES THAT ARE NEITHER INTERESTED IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON, NOR IN PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION. I BELIEVE, AND I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR FRIENDS IN SAUDI ARABIA ALSO BELIEVE, THAT IT IS TIME TO HAVE A ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE IN WHICH ALL OF THE PARTIES DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS IN WHICH THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES CAN LIVE TOGETHER, THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON ARE SAFEGUARDED, AND OUTSIDE INFLUENCES ARE GRADUALLY WITHDRAWN.

AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST AS A WHOLE IS CONCERNED, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED STATES HAS STATED REPEATEDLY THAT WE BELIEVE IMPORTANT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT VERY MAJOR STEPS REMAIN TO BE TAKEN, AND THOSE STEPS, IN OUR VIEW, AND I BELIEVE IN THE VIEW OF ALL OF THE PARTIES NOW, HAVE TO BE TAKEN ON ALL FRONTS, SO THAT PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE CAN BE UNIFORM FOR ALL OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES CONCERNED. THIS IS THE ATTITUDE WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS APPROACHING THE PROBLEM, AND AGAIN I WANT

TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES
HAS TO BE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THIS EFFORT.

AS FAR AS OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA ARE
CONCERNED, SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN OUR OLDEST FRIEND IN THE
ARAB WORLD. WE HAVE HAD AN UNINTERRUPTED RELATIONSHIP OF
TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, AND IN THE WORLD AS IT IS TODAY, IT
IS IMPORTANT THAT COUNTRIES KNOW THAT FRIENDS OF THE
UNITED STATES KNOW OF OUR INTEREST IN THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, IN
THEIR PROSPERITY, AND IN THEIR INDEPENDENCE; AND THAT IT IS
KNOWN THAT THE UNITED STATES STANDS BEHIND ITS FRIENDS.

A FEW YEARS AGO, A GROUP OF THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE SENT A

PLAQUE (IN BRASS, SINCE ONLY THE SAUDIS CAN AFFORD GOLD),
WITH A PIECE OF A PLANK ON WHICH THE FIRST MEETING TOOK
PLACE BETWEEN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND THE KING OF SAUDI
ARABIA. A FEW WEEKS AGO, THE WHEEL OF THAT SHIP WAS PRE-
SENTED BY AMBASSADOR PORTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI
ARABIA. IT SYMBOLIZES THE FACT THAT, WHILE IT MAY HAVE
TAKEN 170 YEARS OF OUR HISTORY FOR OUR LEADERS TO MEET THE
LEADERS OF SAUDI ARABIA, IN THE LAST THIRTY YEARS THESE
CONTACTS HAVE BEEN FREQUENT AND IMPORTANT IN THE NEGOTIATION
THAT I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF CONDUCTING IN THE MIDDLE
EAST. THE ADVICE OF HIS MAJESTY KING FAISAL, OF HIS
MAJESTY KING KHALID, AND OF THE CROWN PRINCE, PRINCE FAHD,
HAS BEEN OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE. AND ANYONE WHO KNOWS
HOW SAUDI DIPLOMACY OPERATES - DISCREETLY AND UNOSTENTATIOUSLY -
ALSO KNOWS THAT OUR SAUDI FRIENDS ALWAYS DO MORE THAN
THEY SAY, AND I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT THIS CLOSE
RELATIONSHIP WE ARE DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING AND TO
STRENGTHENING.

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IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, TO WELCOME
YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND TO THE UNITED STATES,
AND I WOULD LIKE ALL OF OUR GUESTS TO DRINK A TOAST: TO
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, AND TO THE GROWING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
OUR TWO PEOPLES. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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